

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06147 180742Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /047 W
-----012296 181817Z /40
R 171520Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
SECSTATE WASHDC 8477

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, EEC, BE, LU, NI
SUBJECT: NEW NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND EEC

REF: A) BRUSSELS 8990 (NOTAL), B) LAGOS A-38 OF
APRIL 14, 1978

1. REF B PROVIDED FULL BIO ON PETER AYODELE AFOLABI, NEW NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM WHO WILL HAVE CONCURRENT ACCREDITATION TO THE EEC AND LUXEMBOURG. THIS CABLE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY BY EMBASSY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WHO HAS HAD EXTENSIVE DEALINGS WITH AFOLABI DURING HIS CURRENT TOUR IN LAGOS AS DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. AFOLABI'S FORTE IS IN CHAIRING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES. IN MORE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, HE IS REGARDED BY HIS PEERS AND SUBORDINATES AS SOMEWHAT SUPERFICIAL WITH A TENDENCY TO VERBOSITY. HE ALSO LIKES TO
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DUMP THE WORKLOAD ON OTHERS. A SURFACE GRASP OF SUBJECTS IS ALSO REPORTED. ALTHOUGH USUALLY BUREAUCRATICALLY AGILE, AFOLABI HAS OCCASIONALLY STEPPED ON THE TOES OF MEA COLLEAGUES DURING HIS LAGOS STAY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECENTLY RETIRED MEA PERMSEC WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF AFOLABI'S PENCHANT FOR TRAVEL JUNKETS AND BLOCKED HIS TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS THIS YEAR.

4. AFOLABI DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A FRIEND OF THE U.S., ONE WHO
LEANS INSTINCTIVELY TOWARDS NORTH AMERICA RATHER THAN TO GREAT
BRITAIN FOR CULTURAL AND POLITICAL VALUES. ON THE OTHER HAND,
HE IS NOT HESITANT TO BE CRITICAL OF U.S. ACTIONS AND VIEWS.
IN ECONOMIC TERMS, HE HAS BEEN FORTHRIGHT IN CRITICIZING THE
SOCIALIST APPROACH. HE HAS REPEATEDLY SAID THAT NIGERIA WANTS
NOTHING TO DO WITH A SOCIALIST SYSTEM, THAT SOCIALISM HAS
WRECKED THE ECONOMY IN EVERY AFRICAN NATION WHERE IT WAS TRIED.
EASUM

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